

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 15590

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM JOVA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, OVIP, MX (MRS. CARMEN ROMANO DE LOPEZ PORTILLO)

SUBJECT: ATTENDANCE OF MRS LOPEZ PORTILLO AT INAUGURAL
CEREMONIES

1. AS YOU KNOW, MRS LOPEZ PORTILLO HAS ACCEPTED THE INVITATION
BY MRS CARTER TO ATTEND PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURAL CEREMONIES.
I UNDERSTAND THAT WHILE MRS CARTER WAS HERE SHE ALSO MENTIONED
TO PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO THAT HE TOO WOULD BE VERY WELCOME.
WHILE TEMPTED TO COME, I UNDERSTAND THAT HE RECOGNIZES THE
PROTOCOL COMPLICATIONS INVOLVED AND WILL PROBABLY NOT ATTEND
THE ACTUAL INAUGURATION. HE IS ATTRACTED BY THE POSSIBILITY
OF COMING TO WASHINGTON A COUPLE OF DAYS LATER ON THE PRETEXT
OF PICKING UP MRS LOPEZ PORTILLO SHOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO
ARRANGE FOR AN INFORMAL MEETING WITH NEW AMERICAN PRESIDENT.

2. I HAVE JUST HAD CALL FROM FOREIGN MINISTER SANTIAGO ROEL
WHO CONFIRMED THE ABOVE AND ASKED THAT I COMMUNICATE WITH YOU
PERSONALLY IN ORDER TO STRESS IMPORTANCE THAT THE GOM ATTACHES
IN HAVING NEW MEXICAN AMBASSADOR (HUGO MARGAIN) FULLY ACCREDITED
AND IN OPERATION FOR ARRIVAL OF MRS LOPEZ PORTILLO. ROEL WOULD
ACCOMPANY MRS LOPEZ PORTILLO AND WOULD HOPE TO CALL ON YOU
BEFORE INAUGURATION AND ON SECRETARY-DESIGNATE VANCE IMMEDI-
ATELY THEREAFTER.

3. THE FOREIGN MINISTER TOLD ME THAT AMBASSADOR MARGAIN WILL
BE IN WASHINGTON AS OF DEC 28. I MADE CLEAR TO HIM THAT PRESI-
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DENT FORD WILL BE OUT OF WASHINGTON FOR SEVERAL DAYS OVER THE

HOLIDAYS. HE REITERATED THE STRONG WISH THAT THE PRESIDENT COULD RECEIVE MARGAIN, EVEN ON AN EXCEPTIONAL BASIS, AFTER HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON AND BEFORE THE JAN 20 INAUGURAL DATE. MARGAIN IS PROCEEDING OVER THE WEEKEND TO LONDON TO UNDERTAKE HIS FAREWELLS THERE AND HAS COMMITMENTS THROUGH DEC 23. HE COULD ROUTE HIMSELF BACK BY WAY OF WASHINGTON ARRIVING THERE ON THE NIGHT OF DEC 23 OR MORNING OF DEC 24 SHOULD, BY ANY CHANCE, THE PRESIDENT PREFER TO RECEIVE HIM BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE ON HOLIDAY; HE RECOGNIZED THAT IT WAS PROBABLE THAT PRESIDENT FORD MIGHT BE LEAVING WASHINGTON BEFORE DEC 24.

4. RECOMMENDATION: HAVING IN MIND (A) THE TRULY EXTRAORDINARY HOSPITALITY AND MANY COURTESIES EXTENDED TO YOU AS HEAD OF THE AMERICAN DELEGATION, TO JACK FORD AS THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AS WELL AS TO MRS. CARTER, I RECOMMEND THAT EVERY COURTESY POSSIBLE BE EXTENDED TO MRS. LOPEZ PORTILLO AND HER SUITE DURING THE VISIT. (B) I RECOMMEND SPECIFICALLY THAT PRESIDENT FORD BE REQUESTED TO RECEIVE AMBASSADOR MARGAIN, EVEN ON AN EXCEPTIONAL BASIS, AS THIS WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESS OF THE VISIT AND WOULD ALSO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PRESIDENT FORD TO EXPRESS HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE COURTESIES SHOWN TO JACK FORD DURING HIS VISIT HERE. (C) I ALSO RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT PROPOSE TO PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER THAT A DAY OR TWO AFTER THE INAUGURATION THAT HE RECEIVE PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO FOR AT LEAST AN OFFICE VISIT AND PREFERABLY ALSO FOR AN INFORMAL FAMILY MEAL.

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